

What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A method of upgrading a storage library, wherein the storage
2 library has a hardware component operable to run at low and high operating levels,
3 the hardware component being set to operate at the low operating level, the method
4 comprising:
5 associating an upgrade module with the storage library, the upgrade
6 module having permission instructions for the hardware component of the storage
7 library to operate at the high operating level; and
8 enabling the hardware component of the storage library to operate
9 at the high operating level in response to the upgrade module being associated with
10 the storage library in order to upgrade the storage library.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 associating an upgrade module with the storage library includes
3 attaching an upgrade module to the storage library.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 associating an enabling mechanism with the storage library, the
3 enabling mechanism containing permission instructions for the hardware
4 component of the storage library to run at the low operating level, wherein the
5 enabling mechanism updates the permission instructions for the hardware
6 component to run at the high operating level upon the upgrade module being
7 associated with the storage library.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein:

2 the hardware component is a storage array for storing media of the
3 storage library.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a set of media players for performing
3 operations on media of the storage library.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a robotic mechanism for manipulating
3 media of the storage library.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 associating an upgrade module with the storage library includes
3 associating an EEPROM module with the storage library.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 associating an upgrade module with the storage library includes
3 transferring permission instructions from the Internet to the storage library.

1 9. A system for upgrading a storage library, wherein the storage
2 library has a hardware component operable to run at low and high operating levels,
3 the hardware component of the storage library being set to operate at the low
4 operating level, the system comprising:
5 an upgrade module having permission instructions for the hardware
6 component of the storage library to operate at the high operating level; and
7 an enabling mechanism for enabling the hardware component of the
8 storage library to operate at the high operating level in response to the upgrade

9 module being associated with the storage library in order to upgrade the storage
10 library.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein:
2 the enabling mechanism contains permission instructions for the
3 hardware component of the storage library to run at the low operating level,
4 wherein the security mechanism updates the permission instructions for the
5 hardware component to run at the high operating level upon the upgrade module
6 being associated with the storage library.

1 11. The storage library of claim 9 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a storage array for storing media of the
3 storage library.

1 12. The storage library of claim 9 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a set of media players for performing
3 operations on media of the storage library.

1 13. The storage library of claim 9 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a robotic mechanism for manipulating
3 media of the storage library.

1 14. The storage library of claim 9 wherein:
2 the upgrade module is an EEPROM module.

1 15. The storage library of claim 9 wherein:
2 the permission instructions are transferrable to the upgrade module
3 via the Internet.

1 16. A method of upgrading from a first storage library having a
2 hardware component operable to run at a low operating level to a second storage
3 library having the hardware component operable to run at a high operating level,
4 wherein a base module is needed to be associated with a storage library in order
5 to function, the method comprising:

6 associating a base module from the first storage library with the
7 second storage library, the base module having permission instructions for the
8 hardware component to operate at the low operating level;

9 prompting for an upgrade module to be associated with the second
10 storage library in response to recognizing the permission instructions of the base
11 module for the hardware component to operate at the low operating level, the
12 upgrade module having permission instructions for the hardware component to
13 operate at the high operating level;

14 disassociating the base module from the second storage library;
15 associating the upgrade module with the second storage library; and
16 accepting the permission instructions of the upgrade module for the
17 hardware component to operate at the high operating level.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:
2 disabling the upgrade module;
3 prompting for the base module to be associated with the second
4 storage library;
5 disassociating the upgrade module from the second storage library;
6 associating the base module with the second storage library;
7 writing the permission instructions of the upgrade module into the
8 base module; and

9 enabling the hardware component to operate at the high operating
10 level in response to the upgrade module being associated with the second storage
11 library.

1 18. The method of claim 16 wherein:
2 the hardware component is a storage array for storing media.

1 19. A method of upgrading a storage library, wherein the storage
2 library has a hardware component operable to run at low and high operating levels,
3 the hardware component being set to operate at the low operating level, the method
4 comprising:
5 associating a base module with the storage library, the base module
6 having permission instructions for the hardware component of the storage library
7 to operate at the low operating level, the base module further having permission
8 instructions for enabling the storage library to function;
9 disassociating the base module with the storage library;
10 associating an upgrade module with the storage library, the upgrade
11 module having permission instructions for the hardware component of the storage
12 library to operate at the high operating level; and
13 enabling the hardware component of the storage library to operate
14 at the high operating level in response to the upgrade module being associated with
15 the storage library in order to upgrade the storage library.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
2 disabling the upgrade module;
3 disassociating the upgrade module from the second storage library;
4 associating the base module with the second storage library; and

00-058-TAP

- 5 writing the permission instructions of the upgrade module into the
- 6 base module.